Jake Smith

Period: 8/9

Garrett Morgan Argumentative Essay

 Who would you want to include on the new Mount Rushmore monument? If I were you, I would choose to have a person named Garrett Morgan. He has made many contributions throughout American History that helped us shape the world that we live in today.

 Starting in 1909, Morgan worked with sewing machines in a newly opened tailoring shop with his wife, Mary. From <http://www.biography.com/people/garrett-morgan-9414691>, we learned that he experienced a problem with a sewing-machine needle. This was a common problem since sewing machines ran at very high speeds. Due to this situation, he decided to test a chemical solution to reduce the friction made by the needle. It has led to the hairs of cloth being straighter. Wouldn’t you want your materials at your home to be straighter? With the success of the chemical solution, Morgan was able to establish the “G.A. Morgan Hair Refining Company.” He sold the cream used to other African-Americans. If I were you, I would suggest trying to get some of this cream.

 In 1914, Morgan invented a breathing device so people can breathe easily in the presence of smoke, gases, and other pollutants. From the biography website (see link in 1st body paragraph) in the heading “breathing device”, a quote saying, “often personally demonstrating its reliability in fires,” showed how reliable the breathing device was. Have you ever wondered how gas masks were formed? The breathing device gave us the blueprint into inventing gas masks. A brief description of the gas mask is found in a book called African American Scientists and Inventors. The device earned the first prize at the Second International Exposition of Safety and Sanitation in New York City. I think this was a good achievement the device earned. To get people to buy it, Morgan posed a white actor as “the inventor.” Morgan then posed as a Native American sidekick named “Big Chief Mason.” If he was caught as an African-American, his sales would drop greatly. I think this is very unfair to any African-American.

 In 1916, a new tunnel was being made under Lake Erie for a fresh water supply. During the drilling, workers hit a pocket of natural gas. It suffocated them with fumes and dust. An in depth look can be found at <http://www.gendisasters.com/data1/oh/explosions/cleveland-tunnelexp1898.htm>. A survivor from the explosion, Con O’Donnell, reported, “There were ten explosions.” This showed how intense the explosion was. Morgan and his brother came with breathing devices. The effort was heroic, but it hurt sales due to the African-American discovery. Morgan and his brother weren’t recognized for their heroic effort. I think that discrimination is a bunch of bullcrap.

 Have you ever wondered who invented the traffic light that we currently use today? Morgan created a traffic signal in 1923 with a warning light to tell drivers to stop. In an article entitled, The Garrett A. Morgan Program: Shaping the Future of Transportation, he made the first principles of the 3-way traffic light. He invented this due to a problematic intersection he came across in Cleveland. It is used in the U.S., Britain, and Canada. The rights were sold to General Electric for $40,000.

 You may be considering to put Barack Obama on the Mount Rushmore Monument, but do you think that is a good idea? From [http://www.biography.com/people/barack-obama-12782369#re-election-and-second-term](http://www.biography.com/people/barack-obama-12782369%23re-election-and-second-term), it showed that Obama has been developing a health care system, Obamacare. Morgan has done better work compared to Obama. His traffic light is something that all drivers rely on today. If you had to choose between Morgan and Obama to put on Mount Rushmore, who would you choose? Use what you know about both people and make your judgement.

 Garrett Morgan’s inventions and ideas have helped us shape the world we live in today. I hope with the given information about Garrett Morgan that you decide to put Morgan’s face on the new Mount Rushmore. Even though some people are different than others, anyone can help shape the world that we live in today.